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MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

THROUGH : Deputy Director for Intelligence

SUBJECT : National Intelligence Survey Program
-- Progress Report on Proposal to
Phase Out Detailed Sections

REFERENCE : Memo to DCI, dated 10 September 1971,
Subject: National Intelligence Survey
Program -- Assessment and Plans

1. The referenced memorandum (Attachment A) outlined a number of changes under way or planned for the General Survey and the reasons for them. All the changes mentioned have been made or are in process of implementation, including a new format and cover (Attachment B), and a shift to a bound-by-chapter arrangement scheduled to appear about 1 July 1972. The changes made and in process have received widespread favorable response.

2. The referenced memorandum also made the following two recommendations:

a. that the detailed supplements on the Armed Forces of Communist China and the USSR be discontinued at the end of FY '72 and that carefully selected essential data from them be integrated into the Armed Forces chapter of the General Survey in its new format, and

b. that the remaining detailed sections be dropped from the program at the end of FY '72.

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3. The reasons for the recommendations were the continuing manpower and budget attrition in DIA which was eroding production to the point of marginal return, the limited audience for several of the sections remaining in production, some areas of overlap between the General Survey and the detailed sections, and the need to accommodate a directed personnel strength reduction in the NIS Division of OBGL.

4. With respect to the recommendations, you instructed me to proceed with the necessary staff work and coordination with the NIS Committee of USIB. That has been a slow process because of the worldwide survey of the matter conducted by the armed services representatives and because of the complexity of the issues involved. However, the NIS Committee Members have now responded (Attachment C). DIA and State agree to my proposal to eliminate the detailed supplements and to expand selectively the General Survey. The Army representative reported approval in general, but recorded the desires of several specific users for continuation of certain supplements. He also expressed concern with the trend away from the original concepts and goals of the NIS program. The Navy response opposes any change that reduces coverage of interest to the Navy. Some of the Navy-stated requirements can be met adequately in the new format, but the Oceanography section presents problems. I am attempting to reach agreement on the basis of continuing publication through FY '73. The Air Force representative reported general acceptance of the proposal, requested that certain specific data be incorporated into the new General Survey format, most of which we can accomplish, and underscored a "need for assurance that any reduction of hard-cover production by any one of the intelligence-producing agencies be assessed at the national level."

5. Despite the reluctance and concern expressed by the armed services representatives, I see no reason to alter the recommendations. Most of the publications mentioned by the armed services representatives are produced by DIA and, because of budget and personnel reductions in DIA, are already scheduled for elimination or reduction in scope and maintenance cycles to the point where continuing them as separate publications seems an uneconomic use of resources. The expressed concerns of the armed services representatives have been given careful consideration in reviewing the proposal to phase out the detailed sections. Attachment D briefly recaps, for each detailed section, the main factors involved, what I propose to do, and the rationale in each case. I believe that we can eliminate the detailed sections and still meet the broad basic intelligence needs of most of the NIS audience.

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6. The matter has now been placed before the NIS Committee for approval and the draft memorandum to USIB (Attachment E) offered for coordination before submitting it to USIB.

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Director
Basic and Geographic Intelligence
and
Chairman, NIS Committee

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